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Nebraska Health & Human Services NEBRASKA WIC PROGRAM **Procedure Title: Retention of**

Records

Purpose

Provide guidance for the retention of all records maintained by the local agency.

Retention Period

- A. All records should be retained for a minimum period of three years after closeout of the period for which records pertain. The fiscal year for the program extends from October 1 to September 30.
 - All records with transactions relating to that fiscal year must be kept for a period of three years from the closeout, which usually occurs in January. For more information on disposal of records see Volume V, Section L.

Local Agency Policy

- A. Local agencies should adopt their own written policy regarding retention and disposal of records. A local agency policy would reflect how all federal and state requests will be met as well as how any legal guidance is to be incorporated.
 - 1. It is suggested that local agencies consult an attorney regarding other legal considerations involved in the retention of medical and administrative records, particularly medical records of minors.
- B. If you have any questions concerning retention of records, contact the WIC Administrative Operations Coordinator.

Exceptions

- A. Exceptions to the three year retention rule include the following:
 - 1. Waiting Lists should be retained for 90 days after all participants have been removed.
 - 2. Records of walk-in applicants who do not return for their scheduled appointment should be retained for 90 days.
 - 3. Records should be retained for three years from the closing date of an outstanding audit.